

News Release Archive

2002

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News Release

Release No.: 130-02

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VENEMAN SELECTS DONNA REIFSCHNEIDER AS ADMINISTRATOR OF GIPSA

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2002--Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the selection of Donna Reifschneider as the new administrator of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

Reifschneider comes to USDA from the Meat Export Federation where she has been an executive committee member since 1999. Prior to that, she was president of the National Pork Producers Council, coordinating state and national policy and strategy and negotiating with Canadian and Mexican pork organizations on trade issues.

"Donna Reifschneider brings to USDA unique experiences in the private sector that will be beneficial in administering important marketing programs," said Veneman.

Reifschneider, and her family, own and operate a 600-sow, 1000-acre hog and grain farm in southern Illinois. She served as chair of the Pork Quality Assurance committee from 1992 - 1998 and as chair of the Pork Food Safety committee from 1995 - 1998. She also has served on the Pork Trade committee since 1999 and participated in trade missions to China, Japan, Argentina and Brazil.

Reifschneider is a participant in Illinois Governor Edgar's Commission on Animal Agriculture, the University of Illinois Blue Ribbon Task Force on Extension and the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program. She is a graduate of Southern Illinois University. She will officially join USDA on April 15. GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

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News Release

Release No.: 04-02

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GIPSA OFFICIAL DESIGNATION ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON (Jan. 28, 2002) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect grain in specified areas in Iowa.

- GIPSA is requesting comments on the applicants for the Des Moines, Iowa area. Central Iowa Grain Inspection Service, Inc., applied for the area currently assigned to them. Kevin D. Bredthauer and Sandra M. Bredthauer, Des Moines, Iowa, proposing to do business as Central Iowa Grain Inspection Corporation applied for all or part of the Central Iowa geographic area.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or
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News Release

Release No.: 02-02

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GIPSA EXPANDS RAPID TEST PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION PROGRAM AND INTRODUCES PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 2002 - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today introduced a Proficiency Program and expanded its Rapid Test Performance Verification Program for biotechnology-derived grains and oilseeds.

These two programs respond to the market's need for reliable and rapid tests as new biotechnology-derived grains and oilseeds are developed and commercialized.

The Proficiency Program will enable organizations to assess their capabilities to analyze grains and oilseeds for the presence of commercially produced biotech events. The program is available to both private and government organizations and international entities. It will enable organizations to enhance testing reliability and help the grain industry determine the proficiency of commercial labs that provide testing services.

Under the Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program, GIPSA will evaluate the performance of rapid tests developed to detect commercially produced biotechnology events in grains and oilseeds, and confirm that the tests operate in accordance with manufacturers' claims. This program was initially used to evaluate rapid tests developed to detect the presence of the Cry9C protein which appeared in StarLink™ corn.

"These programs are another way GIPSA is serving a market that needs greater product differentiation," said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman. "Market participants need precise information about products in the marketing chain. GIPSA's programs will ensure that accurate and reliable testing services are available to provide that information."

For technical information, contact Don Kendall at telephone 816-891-0463 or via e-mail to biotechlab@usda.gov, or visit GIPSA's web site at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/biotech.htm>.

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News Release

Release No.: 09-02

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GIPSA APPROVES MYCOÜ AFLATOXIN TEST KIT

WASHINGTON, Feb.14, 2002 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced that Mycoü Aflatoxin Test Kit, manufactured by Strategic Diagnostics Inc, has been approved for official testing of aflatoxin in the national grain inspection system.

GIPSA approves the official use of the Mycoü Aflatoxin Test Kit to determine total aflatoxin levels in corn, corn meal, corn soy blend, sorghum, and popcorn.

Aflatoxins are a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in corn, sorghum, and other grains.

GIPSA's work on mycotoxin analyses continues to expand, said GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman. The market needs accurate information on mycotoxins, and approval of this test kit will be another way that GIPSA is harnessing new technology in the official inspection system to respond to market needs.

Technical information: Tim Norden, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0470, or by e-mail at tim.d.norden@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 11-02

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GIPSA VERIFIES PERFORMANCE OF TESTS TO DETECT ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS AND CORN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 2002--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today that it has verified that the EnviroLogix Inc., Roundup Ready QuickStix™ Kit for Soybean Grain (Part No. AS010BG) detects the presence of one Roundup Ready® Soybean kernel in 1,000 kernels; and the Neogen Corporation's Agri-Screen® CP4 Strip Test (Part No. 8005f) detects the presence of one Roundup Ready soybean in 1000 soybeans and one Roundup Ready corn kernel (NK603) in 800 kernels.

These are the first rapid tests evaluated under GIPSA's recently expanded Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program. GIPSA acting administrator David Shipman said that

GIPSA's evaluation of these tests will help the grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's Biotechnology web page at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/biotech.htm>.

Information contact: Don Kendall, Biotechnology Program Manager, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0463.

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News Release

Release No.: 14-02

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GIPSA Official Designation Activities

WASHINGTON, Mar. 1 -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Aberdeen, Texas; Decatur, Ill.; Grand Forks, ND; Hastings, Neb.; Clinton, Iowa; Jefferson City, Mo.; and Charleston, SC areas. GIPSA is asking for applications by April 1, 2002.
- J. W. Barton Grain Inspection Service, Inc., Central Illinois Grain Inspection, Inc., North Dakota Grain Inspection Service, Inc., and Plainview Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective April 1, 2002, through March 31, 2005. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Barton at 270-683-0616, Central Illinois at 309-827-7121, North Dakota at 701-293-7420, and Plainview at 806-293-1364.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail vroseber@gipsadc.usda.gov.
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News Release

Release No.: 16-02

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GIPSA ISSUES 2001 EXPORT GRAIN QUALITY REPORT

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2001 -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today released its latest report on the quality of U.S. grain exports.

Published annually, GIPSA's "2001 U.S. Grain Exports: Quality Report" summarizes the quality of export wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum, barley, sunflower seeds, canola, and flaxseed. It is based on data collected during the official inspection of export grain shipments in calendar year 2001.

The report is available electronically on GIPSA's web site. Hard copies are available in limited quantities.

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News Release

Release No.: 18-02

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GIPSA VERIFIES Traitü RUR NK603 CORN GRAIN TEST KIT TO DETECT ROUNDUP READY? CORN

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13, 2002--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today that it has verified that the Strategic Diagnostics Inc., Traitü RUR NK603 Corn Grain test kit (Part No. 7000011) detects the presence of one Roundup Ready corn kernel in 800 kernels in 5 minutes.

This test was evaluated under GIPSA's recently expanded Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program.

GIPSA acting administrator David Shipman said that GIPSA's evaluation of this test will help the grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's Biotechnology web page at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/biotech.htm>.

Information contact: Don Kendall, Biotechnology Program Manager, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0463.

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News Release

Release No.: 24-02

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GIPSA VERIFIES Trait- RUR BULK SOYBEANS 5-MINUTE TEST KIT TO DETECT ROUNDUP READY® SOYBEANS

WASHINGTON, Mar. 21, 2002--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today that it has verified that the Strategic Diagnostics Inc., Traitü RUR Bulk Soybean 5-Minute test kit (Part No. 7000014) detects the presence of one Roundup Ready? soybean in 1,000 soybeans in 5 minutes.

This test was evaluated under GIPSA's recently expanded Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program.

GIPSA acting administrator David Shipman said that GIPSA's evaluation of this test will help the grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's Biotechnology web page at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/biotech.htm>.

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News Release

Release No.: 25-02

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GIPSA TO RAISE OFFICIAL INSPECTION AND WEIGHING FEES

Washington, Mar. 23, 2002 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is increasing fees by approximately 4.6 percent for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. The increase applies to contract and noncontract hourly rates, certain unit rates, and the administrative tonnage fee.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, the increase is needed to cover cost-of-living increases. Under the USGSA, GIPSA fees collected must cover, as nearly as practicable, the agency's costs for performing inspection and weighing services, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

The fee increase becomes effective on April 22, 2002.

Information contact: David Orr, director, Field Management Division, via e-mail to David.M.Orr@usda.gov, or telephone (202) 720-0228.

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News Release

Release No.: 17-02

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GIPSA OFFICIAL DESIGNATION ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 25, 2002)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect grain in specified areas in Iowa.

Central Iowa Grain Inspection Corporation is designated to inspect grain effective April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2005. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Central Iowa at 515-266-1101.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail virginia.v.roseberry@usda.gov

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News Release

Release No.:27-02

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GIPSA to Adjust Hard Red Winter Wheat and Soft White Wheat Protein Calibrations

WASHINGTON, DC (April 8, 2002)-The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced it will make bias adjustments to the Hard Red Winter wheat (HRW) and Soft White wheat (SWH) protein calibrations for official near-infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments. The bias adjustments will be effective May 1, 2002.

GIPSA annually reviews wheat protein calibrations to measure the performance of NIRT instruments compared to the standard reference method, the Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer. This change will more closely align official HRW and SWH wheat NIRT protein results with the standard reference method and is expected to improve the accuracy of official protein measurements for HRW and SWH wheat. The bias adjustment will lower the protein results for both HRW and SWH by 0.10 percent across the full protein range.

The existing HRW wheat protein calibration has been in place, with no adjustments, since 1993. In May 1999, the SWH wheat protein calibration was adjusted.

According to GIPSA acting administrator David R. Shipman, periodic calibration updates and adjustments provide the grain industry with the best possible information from which to determine end-product yield and quality of grain.

Information contact: Steve Tanner, director, Technical Services Division, 816-891-0401

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News Release

Release No.: 31-02

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GIPSA Verifies Performance of EnviroLogix Kit to Detect Roundup Ready® Corn

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2002--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration announced today that it has verified that the EnviroLogix Inc., Roundup Ready® QuickStix™ Kit for Corn Grain (Part No. AS010BG) detects the presence of one Roundup Ready® corn kernel (NK603) in 200 kernels in 5 minutes.

This test was evaluated under GIPSA's recently expanded Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program.

GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider said that GIPSA's evaluation of this test will help the grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For information on GIPSA's Rapid Test Performance Evaluation Program and Proficiency Program, visit GIPSA's Biotechnology web page at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/biotech.htm>.

Information contact: Don Kendall, Biotechnology Program Manager, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0463.

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News Release

Release No.:37-02

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NEW GRAIN INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES SELECTED

WASHINGTON, May 14, 2002--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of five members and five alternate members to serve on the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The appointees began serving 3-year terms beginning March 2002.

The new members are: David L. Ayers, president/manager, Champaign Danville Grain Inspection Departments, Inc., Champaign, Ill.; Lisa L. Curran, grain quality manager, General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.; Mary Schuler, farmer/president, Schuler Lands, Inc., Dutton, Mont.; Robert C. Smigelski, operating manager, The Andersons, Inc., Maumee, Ohio; and David A. Swinford, marketing manager, Dumas Co-op Elevators, Dumas, Tex.

The new alternate members are: Lynn Clarkson, president, Clarkson Grain Co., Inc., Cerro Cordo, Ill.; Paul A. Coppin, general manager, Reynolds United Co-op, Reynolds, North Dakota; John D. Oades; director, West Coast Office, U.S. Wheat Associates, Portland, Ore.; Ernest G. Potter, CPA/manager; May, Cocagne & King, P.C., CPAs, Gilman, Ill.; and Jon R. Setterdahl; grain marketing manager, Farmers Cooperative Company, Farnhamville, Iowa. The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise GIPSA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act that meet the needs of the Agency's customers.

For more information, contact Joanne Peterson, GIPSA, 202-720-8262,
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News Release

Release No.: 40-02

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GIPSA OFFICIAL DESIGNATION ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 13, 2002)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Montgomery, Alabama; Sacramento, California; Essex, Illinois; Springfield, Illinois; and Olympia, Washington areas. GIPSA is asking for applications and comments about the current service providers by July 1, 2002.
- Georgia Department of Agriculture, Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., Montana Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Schneider Inspection Service, Inc., are designated to inspect grain effective July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Georgia at 229-386-3130, Mid-Iowa at 319-363-0239, Montana at 406-452-9561, Oregon at 541-276-0939, and Schneider at 219-992-2306.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail virginia.v.roseberry@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 42-02

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GIPSA APPROVES VICAM DON TEST KIT

Washington, D.C. (June 27, 2002)-The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today approved the DON FQ Test Kit, marketed by VICAM, for deoxynivalenol testing in the official grain inspection system.

Deoxynivalenol, or DON, is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in wheat, barley, corn and other grains. Approval of this test kit expands the choice of DON test kits available to the official inspection system.

GIPSA approved the official use of the DON FQ Test Kit to determine deoxynivalenol in wheat, barley, malted barley, oats, and corn.

GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider said that GIPSA's evaluation of this test will help the grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

Technical information: Timothy Norden, GIPSA Technical Services Divisions, 816-891-0470, or by e-mail at Tim.D.Norden@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 44-02

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GIPSA Proposes Exceptions to Geographic Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 3, 2002)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today published in the Federal Register a proposed rule seeking comment on allowing more than one designated official agency to provide official inspection services within a single geographic area.

Currently, each official agency designated by GIPSA to provide official inspection services on the Agency's behalf in domestic markets operates in its own assigned geographic area. In 2000, the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) was amended to give USDA discretion, under certain circumstances, to allow more than one designated official agency to inspect or weigh grain within a single geographic area.

The proposed rule would allow exceptions to geographic boundary regulations for specific situations related to nonuse of service, timely service, and barge probing. The proposal is designed to enhance the orderly marketing of grain by providing segments of the grain industry with more cost-effective and responsive official grain inspection and weighing services while maintaining the integrity of the official grain inspection and weighing system.

Written comments may be submitted to GIPSA Regulatory Manager via mail to GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC 20250-3604; faxed to (202) 690-2755; or by electronic mail to comments.gipsa@usda.gov. Please state that your comments refer to Docket Number FGIS 2002-003, and submit comments prior to September 3, 2002.

For further information contact Neil Porter, Director, Compliance Division at telephone 202-720-8262 or via electronic mail to Neil.E.Porter@usda.gov.

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News Release

Release No.: 61-02

Contact:
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GIPSA Revises U.S. Standards for Milled Rice

WASHINGTON, DC (September 30, 2002) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is revising the United States Standards for Milled Rice to establish a new level of milling degree, "hard milled", to the existing milling requirements, and to eliminate reference to "lightly milled" from the standard's milling requirements.

According to GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider, these changes will facilitate the marketing of rice by better aligning the standards with current processing and marketing practices.

GIPSA published a direct final rule on this action in today's Federal Register. The changes to the standards will become effective December 1, 2002, without further action, unless adverse comment is received by October 31, 2002. If adverse comment is received, GIPSA will publish a timely withdrawal of the rule in the Federal Register.

Written comments must be submitted to Tess Butler, USDA, GIPSA, Room 1647-S, STOP 3604, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-3604; FAX (202) 690-2755; or e-mailed to comments.gipsa@usda.gov.

Technical information contact: John Giler, Chief, Policies and Procedures Branch, (202) 720-0252, John.C.Giler@usda.gov.

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Release No.: XX-02

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GIPSA GRAIN INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET

Washington, DC (October 15, 2002) -- The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee will meet on October 23-24, 2002, in New Orleans, La.

The meeting will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 23, and 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., on October 24, 2002, at the Iberville Suites, 910 Iberville Street, New Orleans.

Topics to be discussed include GIPSA's financial status, the artificial neural networking pilot program, the process verification proposal, future inspection equipment alternatives, wheat end-use functionality research, FGIS' Central Monitoring Laboratory, recent and planned inspection procedural changes, and other related issues concerning the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture.

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee provides advice to the GIPSA administrator on the delivery of grain inspection and weighing services to American agriculture under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Public participation will be limited to written statements, unless permission is received from the Committee Chairman to orally address the Committee. Persons, other than members, who wish to address the Committee or submit written statements before or after the meeting, should contact the Administrator, GIPSA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 3601, Washington, D.C. 20250-3601, telephone (202) 720-0219 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

The meeting will be open to the public. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information or related accommodations should contact Terri Henry, telephone (202) 720-0219 or FAX (202) 205-9237.

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GIPSA OFFICIAL DESIGNATION ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 22, 2002)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced the following action on designations to officially inspect and weigh grain in specified areas in Alabama, California, Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, North Dakota, and Washington.

- GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the Topeka, Kansas; Minot, North Dakota; and Cincinnati, Ohio areas. GIPSA is asking for applications and comments about the current service providers by January 2, 2003.
- GIPSA is asking for comments on the need for service and applicants for the Pendleton, Oregon, area. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is ceasing their grain inspection operations on November 27, 2002.
- Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Kankakee Grain Inspection, Inc., Springfield Grain Inspection, Inc., and Washington Department of Agriculture are designated to inspect and weigh grain effective January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2005. For official grain inspection and weighing services, contact Alabama at 251-415-2531, California at 916-654-0743, Kankakee at 815-365-2268, Springfield at 217-522-5233, and Washington at 360-902-1921.

For further information contact Virginia Roseberry at 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755 or e-mail virginia.v.roseberry@usda.gov.

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Release No.:N/A-02

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USDA DEDICATES MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO HONOR VICTIMS OF GRAIN ELEVATOR EXPLOSIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 2002 -- Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Moseley today commemorated the passing of 13 employees of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration who died in the line of duty in two grain elevator explosions in 1977 by dedicating a memorial plaque.

The plaque will be located on 12th Street, S.W., between Independence Avenue and Jefferson Drive, on the grounds of USDA's Jamie L. Whitten Building.

On Dec. 22, 1977, seven employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service, today part of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), were killed when a grain elevator near New Orleans, La., exploded in what was the worst accident of its kind in the nation's history. Overall, 36 people died and millions of dollars in property were destroyed. Only five days later, on Dec. 27, 1977, a grain elevator in Galveston, Texas, exploded killing 18, including six USDA employees.

"Today we honor the memory of our 13 colleagues who lost their lives on two catastrophic days 25 years ago," Moseley said. "While we mourn their loss, we are grateful that from this tragedy grew joint public and private efforts that have made grain elevators safer workplaces for employees both of USDA and the U.S. grain industry."

Others attending the ceremony include, Bill Hawks, under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs, GIPSA Administrator Donna Reifschneider and GIPSA Deputy Administrator David Shipman.

USDA Office of Communication (202) 720-4623
Jerry Redding (202) 720-6959



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News Release

Release No.: 01-02

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WEINMEISTER AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION AND PAYS CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE BOND

WASHINGTON (January 15, 2002) - On November 27, 2001, Wayne W. Weinmeister of Mitchell, Nebraska entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Weinmeister is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a market agency buying livestock on commission, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

Weinmeister admitted the jurisdictional allegations of an administrative complaint issued on January 10, 2001. Weinmeister neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations, waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Weinmeister agreed to stop engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the P&S Act and its regulations without filing and maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent. Weinmeister's bond is required under the P&S Act to secure the performance of his livestock payment obligations. Weinmeister agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

Release No.: 03-02

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USDA RELEASES CAPTIVE SUPPLY STUDY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 2002 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today released a report that clarifies the definition of captive supplies and announced ways that the department can ensure clear reporting of information in the future.

The report was conducted in response to a Congressional mandate in the 2001 Agricultural Appropriations bill. The report, "Captive Supply of Cattle and GIPSA's Reporting of Captive Supply," clarifies GIPSA's definition of the term "captive supply," and compares GIPSA's captive supply statistics to statistics published by other organizations, including USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The report also compares 1999 procurement transactions data of the top four beef packers to summary captive supply data the packers submitted to GIPSA.

The report highlights the following points:

- Differences in captive supply statistics reported by various organizations result from conflicting definitions and variations in the geographical bases of the data collection. GIPSA defines captive supplies based on whether a packer commits to purchase livestock before the animals are ready for slaughter.
- GIPSA's analysis of the top four beef packers' 1999 transactions data revealed that the summary captive supply statistics the packers reported to GIPSA included cattle procured from non-reporting subsidiaries, affiliates, owners and employees, if the animals were procured through a captive supply arrangement.
- Based on its review of the top four packer's transactions records, GIPSA found that captive supplies accounted for 32.3 percent of the firms' total slaughter rather than 25.2 percent, as reported in the packers' annual reports to GIPSA. The data discrepancies are attributed to misunderstandings about captive supply definitions and computational errors.

GIPSA announced the following actions in response to this the findings.

- GIPSA will publish its definition of captive supply in the Federal Register. The definition is this:livestock that is owned or fed by a packer more than14 days prior to slaughter; livestock that is procured by a packer through a contract or marketing agreement that has been in place for more than 14 days prior to slaughter; and livestock that is otherwise committed to a packer more than 14 days prior to slaughter.
- Revise the Packer Annual Report form to clarify reporting definitions.
- Audit future Packer Annual Reports.
- Report captive supply information in more detail.

Copies of the report are available on the internet at:

http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/pubs/captive_supply/captive.htm

For further information, contact: JoAnn Waterfield, Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs,
GIPSA, 1400 Independence Ave., Washington, DC 20250; phone 202-720-7051.

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WARREN YOUNG AND ERNIE L. KENNEDY AGREE TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb.12, 2002 - Warren Young of Lee, Fla., and Ernie L. Kennedy of Pinetta, Fla. entered into consent decisions with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) on Jan. 11, 2002 and Jan. 14, 2002, respectively. Kennedy and Young operated as livestock dealers buying and selling livestock for the account of W.W. Livestock, Inc. of Madison, Fla. Both are registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as dealers buying and selling livestock in commerce for their own accounts or the accounts of others, and as market agencies buying livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Kennedy and Young have admitted to the jurisdictional allegations in an administrative complaint issued on June 29, 2000, but neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. They have waived an oral hearing and further procedures, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Kennedy and Young, in connection with their operations subject to the P&S Act, agreed to stop: (1) selling livestock on false and inflated weights, or any weights other than the original purchase weights of the livestock, or the actual weights determined upon proper reweighing of the livestock; (2) failing to disclose on the accountings issued when livestock is sold, the location and date where the weight is determined, whenever the actual weight used is not obtained, on the date and at the place of transfer of possession; (3) issuing sales invoices or other records containing false or manipulated livestock weights; (4) operating any livestock scale or directing any other person in the operation of the scale, in any manner other than to ensure accurate and correct weights; (5) failing to weigh livestock in accordance with regulations issued under the P&S Act; (6) creating false scale tickets to conceal weight manipulation; and (7) failing to properly use and complete scale tickets in connection with the weighing of livestock as required by regulations issued under the P&S Act.



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Kennedy agreed to the suspension of his registration under the P&S Act for a period of five years, and may not be employed by, or act as the agent of, any dealer market agency or packer, in connection with buying, selling, or weighing of livestock, or the preparation of livestock transaction records, while suspended as a registrant.

Young agreed to a suspension of his registration under the P&S Act for five years. Four years of the suspension will be vacated upon a motion filed by Young at the end of the first year, unless GIPSA establishes that Young has violated any provision of this order. Young may not work for, or act as an agent of, any livestock dealer, market agency or meat packer while suspended as a registrant.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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RAVENNA LIVESTOCK, INC. AGREES TO SETTLE GIPSA'S COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, Feb.12, 2002 - On Jan. 4, 2002, Ravenna Livestock, Inc. and Ronald Lamoreaux, of Belding, Mich. entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to settle a complaint issued by GIPSA on Sept. 20, 2000. Ravenna was registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency buying and selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis, and as a dealer.

Lamoreaux was responsible for the direction, management, and control of Ravenna. Lamoreaux admitted to the jurisdictional allegations of the complaint. He has waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision. Under the terms of the decision, Ravenna and Lamoreaux have agreed to stop: (1) engaging in business subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act while Ravenna's current liabilities exceed its current assets; (2) failing to maintain the "Custodial Accounts for Shippers' Proceeds" in strict conformity with applicable provisions of the regulations issued under the Packers and Stockyards Act; (3) using funds received from the sale of consigned livestock for purposes of his own or for any purpose other than payment to consignors of the amounts due from the sale of livestock and the payment of lawful marketing charges; (4) issuing checks to consignors of livestock sold on a commission basis without maintaining sufficient funds on deposit and available in the account for payment; (5) failing to remit, when due, the net proceeds due from the sale of livestock on a commission basis.

The order suspends Ravenna and Lamoreaux as registrants under the Act for a period of 5 years and thereafter until they have demonstrated that Ravenna is solvent and the shortage in the custodial account has been eliminated. The order may be modified to permit Lamoreaux to be employed by another registrant or packer after the expiration of a two-year period of suspension, and upon demonstration of circumstances warranting a modification of the order. Ravenna Livestock, Inc. ceased operations and filed for bankruptcy May 8, 1998. The terms of this consent decision pertain to the operations of Ronald Lamoreaux and Ravenna Livestock, Inc., and not the successor entity, Ravenna Livestock, LLC.



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O. WAYNE CLARK AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb.12, 2002 - On Jan. 14, 2002, W.W. Livestock, Inc. and O. Wayne Clark of Madison, Fla. entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Clark is president and sole owner of W.W. Livestock, and is responsible for its direction, management, and control. W.W. Livestock is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account, or for the accounts of others.

W.W. Livestock and Clark admitted to the jurisdictional allegations in an administrative complaint issued on June 29, 2000. W.W. Livestock and Clark have neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. W.W. Livestock and Clark have waived an oral hearing and further procedures, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, W.W. Livestock and Clark, in connection with their operations subject to Packers and Stockyards Act, agreed to stop: (1) selling livestock on false and inflated weights, or any weights other than the original purchase weights of the livestock, or the actual weights determined upon proper reweighing of the livestock; (2) failing to disclose on the accountings issued when livestock is sold, the location and date where the weight is determined, whenever the actual weight used is not obtained on the date and at the place of transfer of possession; (3) issuing sales invoices or other records containing false or manipulated livestock weights; (4) operating any livestock scale, individually or jointly, or directing any other person in the operation of any livestock scale, in any manner other than to ensure accurate and correct weights; (5) failing to weigh livestock in accordance with regulations issued under the Packers and Stockyards Act; (6) creating false scale tickets to conceal weight manipulation; and, (7) failing to properly use and complete scale tickets in connection with the weighing of livestock as required by regulations issued under the Packers and Stockyards Act.



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W.W. Livestock and Clark agreed to a suspension of their registrations under the Packers and Stockyard Act for five years. Clark may not be employed by, or act as the agent of, any dealer, market agency or packer, in connection with the buying, selling, or weighing livestock, or the preparation of livestock transaction records, while suspended as a registrant. W.W. Livestock and Clark were assessed a civil penalty of \$50,000.00. The civil penalty will be held in abeyance for 18 months, and may be reduced in the amounts of any payments made by W.W. Livestock and Clark to livestock purchasers identified in the complaint during the 18-month¹ period of abeyance.

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News Release

Release No.: 08-02

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GIPSA FILES NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAL EXCEL DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 2002 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has filed a Notice of Intent to appeal an administrative law judge's decision not to assess a civil penalty in a case filed against Excel Corporation.

Following a series of administrative hearings during 2000 and 2001, the administrative law judge found that Excel had violated the Packers and Stockyards Act but failed to assess any penalty for the violations. GIPSA disagrees with many of the factual and legal conclusions reached and with the decision not to assess a civil penalty for Excel's conduct.

At issue in the hearings were GIPSA's allegations that Excel failed to notify swine producers prior to changing a formula that calculated the prices paid on a carcass merit basis. The judge found that Excel's failure to notify producers prior to changing the lean percent formula on which payment is calculated was illegal.

In its complaint, GIPSA alleged that Excel failed to notify its hog sellers that it had changed the formula by which it estimated the lean percent of hogs, prior to implementing the change and in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. Excel uses lean percent measurement to compute the purchase price of hogs that it buys on a carcass merit basis. As a result, Excel underpaid producers approximately \$2.9 million for about 3.6 million hogs purchased between October 1997 and July 1998.

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News Release

Release No.: 10-02

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GIPSA ISSUES A COMPLAINT AGAINST HOUSTON LIVESTOCK CO., INC. AND BILLY MIKE GENTRY

WASHINGTON, Feb.15, 2002 - On Jan. 29, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Houston Livestock Co. Inc. of Pontonoc, Miss., and Billy Mike Gentry of Houston, Miss. Houston is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis.

Gentry is President and Treasurer, as well as owner of 50% of the stock of Houston. Gentry is also registered under the P&S Act as a market agency buying livestock on commission, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

The complaint alleges that Houston, under the direction, management, and control of Gentry, issued checks to consignors of livestock that were returned to the consignors unpaid because of a lack of sufficient funds on deposit in the account on which the checks were drawn. Houston is also alleged to have failed to pay consignors of livestock within the time required by the regulations issued under the P&S Act.

The complaint further alleges that Houston, under Gentry's direction, failed to properly maintain and use its custodial account, endangering full and prompt payment to livestock consignors. Shortages in Houston's custodial account occurred on several occasions because Houston allegedly failed to make timely deposit into the account, and made improper deposits of funds collected from the sale of consigned livestock into the firm's general account instead of into the custodial account.

Houston and Gentry have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file a response to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Houston and Gentry may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, suspended as registrants, and assessed a civil penalty.



United States Department of Agriculture

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News Release

Release No.: 12-02

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KENNETH KOOPS AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2002 - On Jan. 28, 2002, Kenneth Koops of Gettysburg, S.D. entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). Koops is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

Koops admitted the jurisdictional allegations in an administrative complaint issued on Feb. 13, 2001, but has neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. He has waived an oral hearing and further procedures. Additionally, he has consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the decision Koops, in connection with his operation subject to the P&S Act, agreed to stop: (1) failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; (2) failing to make timely payment of the full purchase price of livestock; and (3) issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without having sufficient funds on deposit.

Koops agreed to the suspension of his registration under the P&S Act for a period of five years. The order may be modified after 150 days of the suspension to permit Koop's employment by another registrant, or packer if Koops demonstrates circumstances that warrant modification.

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News Release

Release No.: 13-02

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EDDIE MCNALLY AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2002 - On Jan. 24, 2002, Eddie McNally of Rogersville, Tenn. entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to settle a complaint issued on Sept. 22, 2000. McNally operated as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for the accounts of others.

McNally admitted the jurisdictional allegations of the complaint, but has neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. He has waived an oral hearing and further procedure. Additionally, he has consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, McNally, in connection with his activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act), agreed to stop: (1) failing to promptly pay for the full purchase price of livestock; (2) failing to pay the full purchase price of livestock; (3) issuing checks in payment for livestock purchases without maintaining sufficient funds on deposit; (4) engaging in business in any capacity for which registration and bonding is required under the P&S Act without registering with GIPSA and obtaining an adequate bond or its equivalent; (5) misleading sellers, their agents, or other buyers of cattle as to the true purchasers or principal in any livestock transaction; and (6) knowingly accepting, causing or authorizing the preparation of purchase invoices or other documents falsely representing the identity of the purchaser or principal in any livestock transaction. McNally was required to keep accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclosed all transactions involved in his business.

McNally is barred from registering under the P&S Act for a period of five years, and is prohibited from operating subject to the P&S Act without being registered. Upon application by McNally to GIPSA, a supplemental order may be issued allowing McNally to register under the P&S Act after the expiration of 240 days, if all unpaid livestock sellers identified in the complaint have been paid. The order may also be modified to permit the salaried employment of McNally by another registrant or packer after the expiration of the initial 240 days.



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News Release

Release No.: 15-02

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ROD SUHR AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2002 - On Feb. 8, 2002, Rod Suhr of Atlantic, Iowa, entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to settle an amended complaint issued on Sept. 14, 2001. Suhr is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act), as a dealer, buying and selling livestock for his own account, and as a market agency buying on commission.

Suhr admitted to the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint, but neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. He has waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling the complaint, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Suhr, in connection with his operations subject to the P&S Act, agreed to stop engaging in business in any capacity for which bonding is required under the P&S Act and its regulations, without obtaining an adequate bond or its equivalent. Suhr also agreed to pay, when due, the full purchase price of his livestock purchases.

Suhr is suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act for five years, and thereafter, until he obtains the required bond or approved bond equivalent. A supplemental order may be issued terminating Suhr's suspension at any time after 180 days upon demonstration by Suhr that all unpaid livestock sellers have been paid in full, and he has obtained the required bond or bond equivalent. The suspension may be modified after 180 days, upon application by Suhr, to permit his salaried employment by another registrant or packer.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

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Release No.19-02

GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST WEIKERT'S LIVESTOCK, INC. AND TODD D. WEIKERT

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2002 - On Feb. 20, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Weikert's Livestock, Inc. and Todd D. Weikert of Fairfield, Pa. Weikert's Livestock is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce and as a market agency buying livestock on commission.

Weikert is the vice-president of Weikert's Livestock and operates as a livestock dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce as an employee of Weikert's Livestock.

The complaint alleges that Weikert's Livestock, under the direction, management, and control of Weikert, continued to operate as a livestock dealer without maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent as required by the P&S Act and its regulations. The complaint also alleges that Weikert's Livestock purchased livestock and failed to make timely payment for the full purchase price of the livestock. As of Oct. 25, 2001, Weikert's Livestock owed over \$1 million for livestock purchases. In addition, the complaint alleges that Weikert's Livestock issued 25 checks in payment for livestock purchases that were returned unpaid by the bank when checks were presented for payment. Additionally, the complaint alleges that on Oct. 17, 2001 the current liabilities of Weikert's Livestock exceeded the firm's current assets by over \$2 million, in violation of the financial requirements of the P&S Act and its regulations.

Weikert's Livestock and Weikert have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Weikert's Livestock and Weikert may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, and be assessed a civil penalty. Weikert's Livestock may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries. Leah Akbar (202) 720-4998 leah.l.akbar@usda.gov



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News Release

Release No.: 20-02

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CLEBURNE LIVESTOCK AUCTION AND CLYDE A. BOYD, SR. SUBJECT OF GIPSA COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2002 - On Feb. 20, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Livestock Auction of Cleburne, Inc., of Cleburne, Texas and Clyde A. Boyd Sr. of Ft. Worth, Texas. Cleburne, operating as Cleburne Livestock Auction and at times operating as Cleburne Livestock Market, Inc., is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis. Boyd is manager, president and/or vice-president, and owner of Cleburne. Cleburne ceased operations on about October 28, 2000.

The complaint alleges that Cleburne, under the direction, management, and control of Boyd, failed to properly maintain and use its custodial account, endangering full and prompt payment to livestock consignors. Shortages in the custodial account were attributable to Boyd's alleged failure to deposit, into the account, money equal to the sale of consigned livestock within the time limits required by the P&S Act and regulations. The shortages continued to exist although certified letters were sent to Cleburne in 1998 and 1999 notifying Cleburne that the custodial account was not being properly maintained.

The complaint also alleges that Cleburne issued checks to consignors of livestock that were returned to the consignors unpaid because of a lack of sufficient funds on deposit and available in the custodial account. Further, Cleburne is alleged to have failed to pay consignors of livestock within the time required by the regulations issued under the P&S Act. As of the date of the complaint, Cleburne allegedly owed nearly \$223,000 to livestock consignors. Additionally, Cleburne failed to maintain a solvent financial position, as required by the P&S Act and regulations, as its current liabilities exceeded its current assets by over \$241,000 on November 6, 2000.

Cleburne and Boyd have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing.



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If GIPSA proves the allegations, Cleburne and Boyd may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, be suspended as registrants, and assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 22-02

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GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST RANGER AUCTION CO., INC., DAVID L. COAN AND LAQUETTA J. COAN

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2002 - On Feb. 20, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Ranger Auction Co., Inc., David L. Coan, and Laquetta J. Coan all of Eastland, Texas. Ranger, operating as Eastland Auction Co. and Ranger Auction Co., is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis. David Coan owns 50 percent of Ranger and is the firm's vice-president. Laquetta Coan is the chief financial officer of Ranger.

The complaint alleges that Ranger, under the direction, management, and control of David and Laquetta Coan, failed to maintain and use properly its custodial account, endangering the full and prompt payment to livestock consignors. Shortages in the custodial account were due to Ranger's: (1) failure to deposit into the account the money due from the sale of consigned livestock within the time prescribed by the P&S Act and regulations; (2) failure to reimburse the account for purchases made by Ranger; (3) improperly transferring money from the custodial account to the firm's operating account; and (4) allowing bank charges to be routinely deducted from the custodial account. The complaint also alleges that Ranger falsely reported on its 1999 annual report that the custodial account was in balance, when it was short on December 31, 1999, by over \$141,000.

Ranger, David Coan, and Laquetta Coan each have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, the respondents may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, be suspended as registrants, and assessed a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 23-02

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GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST RALPH B. WAITE, SR., RALPH WAITE, JR AND WAITE & WAITE COMPANY, L.L.C.

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2002 - On March 1, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Waite & Waite Company, L.L.C., (Waite L.L.C.) located in Tulsa, Okla., Ralph B. Waite, Sr. of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Ralph Waite, Jr. of McAlester, Okla. Waite L.L.C. is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce. Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr. each own 50 percent of the stock of Waite L.L.C.

The complaint alleges that Waite L.L.C., under the direction, management, and control of Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr., issued checks in payment for livestock purchases, and that the checks were returned unpaid, because there was a lack of sufficient funds in the account. Waite L.L.C. is also alleged to have failed to make timely payments for the full purchase price of livestock purchases. At the time the complaint was issued, Waite L.L.C. owed \$69,681.09 for livestock purchases.

Waite L.L.C. and Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr. have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations against Waite L.L.C. and Waite, Sr. and Waite, Jr. they may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, and be suspended as registrants.

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News Release

Release No.: 26-02

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AGRIPROCESSORS, INC., AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2002 - On March 7, 2002, Agriprocessors, Inc., Postville, Iowa, entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration to settle an administrative complaint. Agriprocessors operates as a meat packer purchasing livestock in commerce for slaughter subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act).

Agriprocessors admitted to the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint, but neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. Agriprocessors has waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed, for the purpose of settling the complaint, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, Agriprocessors, in connection with the firm's operations subject to the P&S Act, agreed to make timely payment of the full purchase price of livestock purchases, and when authorized to make payment by mail, to mail checks in payment for livestock by the day after purchase as required by the P&S Act and its regulations.

Agriprocessors also agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$37,500. The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

Release No.: 28-02

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USDA ISSUES A DEFAULT DECISION AGAINST MONTE VISTA LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC. AND JODY L. PETERSON

WASHINGTON, April 10, 2002, - On March 1, 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a default decision against Monte Vista Livestock Auction, Inc., of Monte Vista, Colo., and its Secretary, Treasurer, and principal owner Jody L. Peterson. Monte Vista is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis, and as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce.

The default decision was issued after Monte Vista and Peterson failed to file a response to an administrative complaint issued on June 11, 2002. Failure to file an answer to the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint.

Under the terms of the default decision, Monte Vista and Peterson, were ordered to stop: (1) operating as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis while the firm's current liabilities exceed its current assets; (2) issuing checks in payment for the sale of consigned livestock without having sufficient funds available in the custodial account; (3) failing to make timely payments to consignors of livestock; (4) failing to timely deposit funds due from the sale of consigned livestock into the custodial account as required by regulations issued under the P&S Act; and (5) failing to maintain the custodial account in strict conformity with provisions of the P&S Act and its regulations.

The order suspends the registration of Monte Vista, and prohibits Peterson from registering under the P&S Act for 28 days. After 28 days of suspension, if Monte Vista is able to demonstrate a solvent financial position, and shortages in the firm's custodial account have been eliminated, a supplemental order will be issued terminating the suspension of Monte Vista and permitting Peterson to register.

The default decision will become final and effective 35 days after the decision is received by Monte Vista and Peterson unless an appeal is filed with USDA's Judicial Officer.



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News Release

Release No.: 29-02

Contact:
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GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST DAVID H. HARRIS

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2002 - On March 27, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against David H. Harris who is doing business as Harris Livestock, of Ashland, Ohio. Harris is registered under the Packers & Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account.

The complaint alleges that Harris failed to make timely payments for livestock purchases. Proceeds from a \$40,000 surety bond maintained by Harris were distributed to unpaid livestock sellers on a pro-rata basis in January 2001. As of February 15, 2002, Harris allegedly owed \$92,793.91 for unpaid livestock purchases.

The complaint also alleges that Harris weighed livestock for purchase and issued scale tickets that were not serially numbered, and did not include the name, initials or number of the weigher, as required by the regulations issued under the P&S Act.

Harris has 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, Harris may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, be suspended as a registrant, and be assessed a civil penalty.

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Release No.: 32-02

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3-STATE STOCKYARDS, INC. AND ROBERT J. WITT AGREE TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, (April 24, 2002) - On April 4, 2002, 3-State Stockyards, Inc. and Robert J. Witt, of Falls City, Neb., entered into a consent decision with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. 3-State is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a market agency selling livestock on a commission basis.

3-State and Witt admitted the jurisdictional allegations of an administrative complaint issued on August 13, 2001, but neither admitted nor denied the remaining allegations. Both 3-State and Witt waived an oral hearing, and consented and agreed for the purpose of settling this proceeding, to the entry of this decision.

Under the terms of the consent decision, 3-State and Witt agreed to stop: (1) failing to make timely deposit of monies due from the sale of consigned livestock to 3-State's custodial account; (2) failing to maintain the custodial account in conformity with the provisions of the P&S Act and its regulations; and (3) using custodial funds for purposes of their own, or for any purpose other than paying consignors of livestock and paying lawful marketing charges. The consent decision also requires 3-State and Witt to keep and maintain accounts, records, and memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all transactions that are subject to the P&S Act, including a reconciliation of its general checking account.

3-State was suspended as a registrant and Witt was prohibited from registering under the P&S Act for 14 days, starting April 8, 2002. 3-State and Witt have also agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$6,750.00.

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News Release

Release No.: 35-02

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USDA ISSUES DEFAULT DECISION AGAINST WES MYERS

WASHINGTON, (April 25, 2002) - On April 15, 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA) issued a default decision against Wes Myers of Bozeman, Mont., who is doing business as Wes Myers Livestock of Tribune, Kan. Myers is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce. Myers also operates as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis.

The default decision was issued after Myers failed to respond to an administrative complaint issued on June 19, 2001. Failure to answer the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint.

Under the terms of the default decision, Myers was ordered to make timely payments of the full purchase price of his livestock purchases as required by the P&S Act. Myers was also ordered to stop issuing checks for livestock on an account that lacked sufficient funds to cover the checks. The order further requires Myers to stop using multiple and deceptive trade names in his livestock business that are not included on his approved registration under the P&S Act. Myers is also required under the order to prepare and maintain records that disclose all transactions involved in his livestock business using only his name or the registered business names.

The order suspends Myers as a registrant under the P&S Act for five years. The order may be modified to permit Myers' salaried employment by another registrant or packer after 150 days of the suspension, if Myers demonstrates circumstances warranting modification. Myers continues to have an unpaid balance for livestock purchases of \$121,657.65. This default decision will become final and effective 35 days after the date of service unless Myers files an appeal.

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News Release

Release No.: 33-02

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USDA ISSUES DEFAULT DECISION AGAINST WAYNE COBLENTZ

WASHINGTON, (April 25, 2002) - On April 12, 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA) issued a default decision against Wayne W. Coblentz who is doing business as Coblentz & Sons Livestock of Sugarcreek, Ohio. Coblentz is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for his own account, and as a market agency buying livestock on a commission basis.

The default decision was issued after Coblentz failed to file a response to an administrative complaint issued on September 26, 2001. Failure to answer the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint.

Under the terms of the default decision, Coblentz was ordered to stop issuing checks for livestock on an account that lacked sufficient funds. The decision also ordered Coblentz to make full and timely payment for livestock purchases as required by the P&S Act.

The order suspends Coblentz as a registrant under the P&S Act for five years. If Coblentz makes full payment to the unpaid livestock sellers identified in the complaint, a supplemental order may be issued terminating the suspension after 150 days. Further, the order may be modified after 150 days of the suspension is served, allowing Coblentz to be employed by another registrant or packer, if he demonstrates circumstances warranting modification, such as a reasonable and current schedule of restitution to the unpaid livestock sellers. The default decision will become final and effective 35 days after Coblentz receives a copy of the decision, unless he files an appeal.

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News Release

Release No.: 34-02

Contact:
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GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST LARRY F. WOOTON AND ROSWELL LIVESTOCK AUCTION SALES, INC

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2002 - On April 15, 2002, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Larry F. Wooton and Roswell Livestock Auction Sales, Inc. of Roswell, N.M. Roswell is registered under the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) as a dealer buying and selling livestock in commerce for its own account, and as a market agency buying and selling livestock in commerce on a commission basis. Wooton is the president, manager, and 50 percent owner of Roswell.

The complaint alleges that Roswell, under the direction, management, and control of Wooton, had shortages in its custodial account in excess of \$160,000 on September 29, 2000, and on October 31, 2000. These shortages were due in part to the alleged failure of Roswell to make timely deposits to the custodial account of the monies due from the sale of consigned livestock, as required by regulations issued under the P&S Act. The complaint also alleges that Roswell deposited payments received from livestock buyers to its general account when they should have been deposited in the custodial account. Additionally, the complaint alleges that Roswell, under Wooton's management, used false names to purchase livestock consigned to the market.

In an earlier administrative decision issued in 1999, Roswell and Wooton were ordered to stop violating the custodial account requirements of the P&S Act and its regulations, and were ordered to pay a \$35,000 civil penalty.

Roswell and Wooton have 20 days after receiving the complaint to file an answer to the allegations. Failure to file an answer will constitute an admission of the allegations. A denial of the allegations will result in an oral hearing. If GIPSA proves the allegations, the respondents may be ordered to stop violating the P&S Act, and assessed a civil penalty. Roswell may also be suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act.



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News Release

Release No.: 38-02

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SIMON OF FARLEY, IOWA SUBJECT OF GIPSA COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, (June 3, 2002) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has reason to believe that Carl M. Simon of Farley, Iowa has violated the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act). In a complaint filed on May 13, 2002, GIPSA alleged that Simon, a livestock dealer, continued operations without maintaining an adequate bond.

In view of his increased livestock purchases, Simon was previously advised that he needed to increase his bond amount before continuing his livestock operations. It is GIPSA's contention that Simon continued to conduct business without maintaining an adequate bond or its equivalent.

Simon has 20 days to file a response to GIPSA's complaint. Failure to answer GIPSA's complaint shall constitute an admission of the allegations stated in the complaint, and may result in an order to stop violating the P&S Act and the assessment of a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 41-02

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SALEM PACKING CO. AND ANTHONY BONACCURSO ARE SUBJECT OF GIPSA COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2002 - Josephine E. Bonaccurso, Inc. d.b.a. Salem Packing Co., and Anthony Bonaccurso (Salem Packing) of Salem, N.J. are the subject of a USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) complaint. Allegations against Salem Packing, a meat packer, include: failure to maintain a bond or a bond equivalent, and failure to make payments for the full purchase price of livestock.

In October 2000, Salem Packing was notified that its surety bond would terminate on November 12, 2000, and that if operations continued without a bond. Salem Packing would be violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations. Salem Packing allegedly continued to operate without maintaining an adequate bond or bond equivalent.

Additionally, Salem Packing has also, allegedly, failed to make timely payments for the full purchase price of livestock. It is estimated that over \$300,000 is owed for livestock purchases.

Salem Packing has 20 days from the receipt of notice of the complaint to file an answer, or response, to the allegations outlined in the complaint. Failure to file an answer to GIPSA's allegations will be considered an admission of the allegations and waive Salem Packing's right to an oral hearing. Salem Packing's failure to respond may result in a judgment that directs Salem Packing to stop violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations and assesses a civil penalty.

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News Release

Release No.: 4025.02

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Statement by Bill Hawks Agriculture Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

July 17, 2002 This Administration is committed to effective enforcement of all provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act, including competition provisions. We constantly monitor competitive conditions in the livestock, meatpacking and poultry industries. We initiate investigations and investigate every complaint involving a potential violation and bring cases when warranted.

We have competition units in all three USDA Packers and Stockyards Programs' regional offices which conduct competition investigations. In addition, the Competition Branch at our Washington headquarters establishes investigation policy and provides coordination and direction to field investigators.

During fiscal year 2001, we conducted 27 investigations involving competitiveness issues. These included attempted restriction of competition, failure to compete, buyers acting in concert in the purchase of livestock, apportionment of territory, conflict of interest, price discrimination, price manipulation and predatory pricing. These investigations either are still open, were closed upon a finding of "no violation" or were resolved informally.

We continue to hire economists and legal specialists to assist with our efforts. We are currently in the process of hiring a Chief for our headquarters Competition Branch to develop a national program, work closely with economists and legal specialists in our regional offices, and maintain a close relationship with the Department of Justice, Commodities Futures Trading Commission and other agencies. USDA's Office of General Counsel also has increased the number of attorneys available for competition cases.

Producers and other market participants who have concerns should contact USDA's Packers and Stockyards Hotline at (800) 998-3447 to report a complaint.



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News Release

Release No.: 50-02

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BARTHEL SELECTED AS GIPSA'S REGIONAL SUPERVISOR FOR DENVER

John D. Barthel has been selected as the Regional Supervisor for Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Packers and Stockyards Programs (P&SP) Denver regional office beginning August 12, 2002. Barthel formerly served in GIPSA's P&SP Atlanta regional office.

GIPSA Deputy Administrator, JoAnn Waterfield, in announcing Barthel's appointment said that the former Assistant Supervisor comes to the Denver regional office with an extraordinary understanding of the livestock and poultry industries from both a governmental and industry viewpoint. However, she continued Barthel's management experience and training make him exceptionally well-qualified for his new position.

Barthel completed a temporary assignment as Acting Regional Supervisor for the Atlanta regional office during 2001 and has served that office as the Assistant Regional Supervisor since 1999. However, he began his P&SP career as a Marketing Specialist in the Springfield, IL regional office in 1979. In 1983 he transferred to the Atlanta regional office and later became the Supervisory Marketing Specialist for that office. Following the 1998 reorganization Barthel's flexibility and industry knowledge allowed him to cross functional lines to become the Trade Practice Supervisor and later the Resident Agent Supervisor.

Barthel's livestock industry experience includes purebred cattle, commercial cow-calf, swine and sheep production in Kansas and Illinois. He graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. degree in Animal Husbandry. Barthel completed the Executive Potential Program offered by the USDA Graduate School, Leadership Development Academy in 2001.

Barthel's USDA career accomplishments have been recognized by numerous Certificates of Merit. He was selected for the Administrator's Superior Award for outstanding contributions to the GIPSA mission in 2000. He also received the USDA Point of Light Award for volunteer efforts in youth soccer and a homeless shelter.



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Barthel and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 29 years. They have two sons, David and Steve.

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News Release

Release No.: 46-02

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MAMMOTH CAVE DAIRY AUCTION, INC. AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, (August 28, 2002) - On June 27, 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA) entered a consent decision against Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc, Kenneth F. Deputy, and Michael Allen Hatcher (Mammoth). Mammoth of Smiths Grove, Ky. is a posted stockyard and market agency subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The consent decision orders Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc., Kenneth F. Deputy and Michael Alan Hatcher to stop violating the Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations. Additionally, Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc. was suspended as a registrant for a period of 21 days. Kenneth Deputy shall not be registered as a dealer or market agency during the period of suspension imposed on Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc. Deputy and the corporation were assessed a civil penalty of \$30,000.

Michael Allen Hatcher was suspended as a registrant for a period of 35 days, and is not allowed to be employed by Mammoth Cave Dairy, Inc. during his suspension. Hatcher was assessed a civil penalty of \$66,000.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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News Release

Release No.: 54-02

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SIMON AGREES TO CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25, 2002 - On July 31, 2002, the United States Department of Agriculture entered into a consent decision against Carl M. Simon (Simon) of Farley, Iowa. Simon is a dealer subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The consent decision orders Simon to file and maintain an adequate bond or bond equivalent as required by the P&S Act and regulations. Simon was also assessed a civil penalty of \$800.

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News Release

Release No.:52-02

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CONSENT DECISION SUSPENDS CLEBURNE LIVESTOCK AUCTION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26, 2002 - On June 20, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision against the Livestock Auction of Cleburne, Inc., d.b.a. Cleburne Livestock Auction and Cleburne Livestock Auction, Inc. (Cleburne) in Cleburne, Texas and Clyde A. Boyd Sr. (Boyd) of Ft. Worth, Texas, the alter ego of the corporation. Cleburne and Boyd, a market agency, are subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations. Cleburne ceased operations in October 2000. The Cleburne, Texas market is currently operating under new ownership and will not be affected by this order.

The decision ordered Cleburne and Boyd to stop from failing to properly maintain the custodial account for shippers' proceeds, issuing insufficient funds checks for livestock sold on a consignment basis, failing to remit the full amount due to sellers on the sale of livestock, and operating while insolvent with current liabilities exceeding current assets.

Boyd and Cleburne were suspended as registrants under the P&S Act for a period of five years and thereafter until the shortage in the custodial account and the insolvency are corrected. If, after 240 days, Cleburne and Boyd are able to demonstrate that full restitution has been made to livestock sellers and consignors, and the custodial account shortage and insolvency have been eliminated, they may apply to Packers and Stockyards Programs for a supplemental order to be issued terminating the suspension.

Additionally, if a reasonable and current schedule of restitution can be established ensuring that the livestock sellers and consignors will be paid in full, the order may be modified to allow Boyd to work as the salaried employee of another registrant or packer after the expiration of the 240-day period of suspension.

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News Release

Release No.:59-02

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TENNESSEE PACKER (BADR HALAL MEAT PLANT) ASSESSED CIVIL PENALTY

WASHINGTON, Oct.15, 2002 - On Aug. 14, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration entered into a consent decision against Salah Abdalla and Hassan Boukhari doing business as Wells Processing Plant and also known as Badr Halal Meat Plant (Badr Halal) of Brighton, Tenn. Badr Halal is a packer subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

Badr Halal was ordered to maintain a bond or bond equivalent; to pay, when due, for livestock; keep records that fully and correctly disclose all transactions involved in the firm's business, and was assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000.

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News Release

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RICK THOMPSON LIVESTOCK SUBJECT OF GIPSA COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15, 2002 - On Aug. 2, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Rickey Thompson, doing business as Rick Thompson Livestock (Thompson) of Pitkin La. Thompson, as a livestock dealer, is subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The complaint alleges that Thompson purchased livestock and failed to pay, when due, for the full purchase price of the livestock; used an unauthorized trade name of JT Cattle, and engaged in other illegal conduct such as backdating checks to the date of sale. Additionally, Thompson failed to maintain accounts, records and memoranda that fully and correctly disclose all business transactions subject to the P&S Act.

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News Release

Release No.: XX-02

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WEIKERT'S LIVESTOCK SUSPENDED FOR TEN YEARS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2002 - On Sept. 20, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision against Weikert's Livestock, Inc., and Todd D.

Weikert (Weikert) of Fairfield, Pa. Weikert, a dealer and market agency, is subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The decision ordered Weikert to stop failing to pay for the full purchase price of livestock; failing to pay,

when due, for the full purchase price of livestock; issuing checks without maintaining sufficient funds in the

account they were drawn on to pay for the checks; operating without an adequate bond or bond equivalent;

and engaging in any activity subject to the P&S Act when Weikert's financial condition does not meet the requirements of the P&S Act.

Weikert was suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act for a period of ten years. However, the suspension

will be held in abeyance so long as specified conditions are met. The specified conditions, which are subject

to U.S. Bankruptcy Court approval, require Weikert to make monthly restitution payments to all unpaid

livestock sellers. The livestock sellers will be paid in full within three years.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and

competitive marketing environments in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.



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WEIKERT'S LIVESTOCK SUSPENDED FOR TEN YEARS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2002 - On Sept. 20, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision against Weikert's Livestock, Inc., and Todd D. Weikert (Weikert) of Fairfield, Pa. Weikert, a dealer and market agency, is subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The decision ordered Weikert to stop failing to pay for the full purchase price of livestock; failing to pay, when due, for the full purchase price of livestock; issuing checks without maintaining sufficient funds in the account they were drawn on to pay for the checks; operating without an adequate bond or bond equivalent; and engaging in any activity subject to the P&S Act when Weikert's financial condition does not meet the requirements of the P&S Act.

Weikert was suspended as a registrant under the P&S Act for a period of ten years. However, the suspension will be held in abeyance so long as specified conditions are met. The specified conditions, which are subject to U.S. Bankruptcy Court approval, require Weikert to make monthly restitution payments to all unpaid livestock sellers. The livestock sellers will be paid in full within three years.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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HOLMES LIVESTOCK SUBJECT OF GIPSA COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2002 - On Sept. 13, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an administrative complaint against Fred Holmes, doing business as Holmes Livestock (Holmes) of Brookfield, Mo. Holmes, as a livestock dealer and market agency buying livestock on a commission basis, is subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

Holmes allegedly issued insufficient funds checks in payment of livestock purchases. As of January 28, 2002, Holmes had failed to pay for livestock in the amount of \$505,648.16, and all of the livestock-related purchase amounts owed by Holmes as of January 28, 2002, were more than 325 days overdue.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.

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GIPSA ISSUES COMPLAINT AGAINST DENNIS D. OSBURN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2002 - On Sept. 13, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration issued an administrative complaint against Dennis D. Osburn, of Vienna, West Virginia. Osburn, as a dealer and market agency, is subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

Osburn allegedly failed to pay, when due, for the full purchase price of livestock, issued insufficient funds checks in payment of livestock purchases, and had current liabilities in excess of current assets. As of April 9, 2002, Osburn had failed to pay for livestock in the amount of \$466,499.89.

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Release No.: 64-02

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GIB LLOYD AND SHERIDAN LIVESTOCK SUBJECT OF CONSENT DECISION

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2002 - On Sept. 16, 2002, USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision against Sheridan Livestock, Inc. and Gib Lloyd (Sheridan/Lloyd) of Sheridan, Wy. Sheridan/Lloyd is a stockyard and market agency subject to the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) and regulations.

The consent decision orders Sheridan/Lloyd to maintain and properly use its custodial account, and assesses a civil penalty of \$2,000.

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